

CONFIDENTIAL.]

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REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE
Week ending the 6th April 1895.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
BENGALI.					
<i>Tri-monthly.</i>					
1	"Abodh Bodhini" ...	Calcutta ...	About 677		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Banganivasi" ...	Ditto ...	" 5,000	29th March 1895.	
2	"Bangavasi" ...	Ditto ...	" 20,000	30th ditto.	
3	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto ...	" 4,000	29th ditto.	
4	"Jnándáyiká" ...	Ditto ...	.....	
5	"Mihir" ...	Ditto ...	.....	29th ditto.	
6	"Sahachar" ...	Ditto ...	About 500	27th ditto.	
7	"Samay" ...	Ditto ...	" 4,000	29th ditto.	
8	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto ...	" 3,000	30th ditto.	
9	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto ...	" 800	25th ditto.	
10	"Sudhakar" ...	Ditto ...	" 3,000	.....
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika" ...	Ditto ...	" 200	29th and 30th March, and 1st to 3rd April 1895.	
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika." ...	Ditto ...	" 200	31st March to 4th April 1895.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto ...	" 500	30th March and 1st and 2nd April 1895.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto ...	" 200		
5	"Sulabh Dainik" ...	Ditto ...	" 1,000	29th and 30th March and 1st April 1895.	
HINDI.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto ...	" 800	28th March 1895.	
2	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto ...	" 9,000	1st April 1895.	
3	"Uchit Vakta" ...	Ditto ...	.....	.....
PERSIAN.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hublul Mateen" ...	Ditto ...	.....	.....	Defunct.
URDU.					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide." ...	Ditto ...	About 400	28th March 1895.	
2	"General and Gauhariasfi" ...	Ditto ...	" 300	25th and 31st March 1895.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Basana" ...	Chinsura ...	400		
2	"Purnima" ...	Hooghly ...	500		
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura ...	" 500	1st April 1895.	
2	"Ulubaria Darpan" ...	Ulubaria ...	" 298		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	350 to 400	26th March 1895.	
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha" ...	Chinsura ...	500		
3	"Darsak" ...	Ditto ...	.....	31st ditto.	
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	754	29th ditto.	
BENGALI.					
<i>Monthly.</i>					
1	"Ghosak" ...	Khulna ...	350		
2	"Sat Sanga" ...	Murshidabad ...	200		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad ...	280	27th March 1895.	
2	"Murshidabad Patrika" ...	Ditto ...	350		
3	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi" ...	Berhampore ...	200		
4	"Pratikar" ...	Ditto ...	603	29th ditto.	
5	"Samaj-o-Sahitya" ...	Garibpur, Nadia ...	1,000		

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.	
URIYA.						
ORISSA DIVISION.						
Monthly.						
1	"Shikshabandhu" ...	Cuttack ...	.....	.....	Only six copies have been issued since the paper was revived in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue are said to have been circulated, but no subscribers have been registered. This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Utkalprabha" ...	Mayurbhunj ...	3			
Weekly.						
1	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	190	14th, 21st and 28th February 1895.		
2	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309	13th, 20th and 27th February 1895.		
3	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	412	16th and 23rd February and 2nd March 1895.		
4	"Sambalpur Patriot" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....	.....
HINDI.						
PATNA DIVISION.						
Monthly.						
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	500	.....	
Weekly.						
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000	30th March 1895.		
URDU.						
Weekly.						
1	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500	21st ditto.		
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400			
3	"Mehre Monawar" ...	Muzaffarpur ...	160			
BENGALI.						
RAJSHAHI DIVISION.						
Weekly.						
1	"Bagura Darpan" ...	Bogra ...	.....	29th March 1895.	It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each month. Out of this number 150 copies are distributed among the subscribers and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy.
2	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	283	27th ditto.		
3	"Rangpur Diprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	300			
HINDI.						
Monthly.						
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	150	March 1895.		
BENGALI.						
DACCA DIVISION.						
Fortnightly.						
1	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	280			
2	"Bangabandhu" ...	Dacca ...	250			
Weekly.						
1	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900	26th March 1895.		
2	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	450			
3	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Ditto ...	250	30th ditto.		
4	"Vikrampur" ...	Lauhajangha, Dacca ..	500	28th di tto.		
5	"Bharatvasi" ...	Dacca ...	500			
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.						
Weekly.						
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Ditto ...	500	1st April 1895.		
BENGALI.						
CHITTAGONG DIVISION.						
Fortnightly.						
1	"Tripura Prakash" ...	Comilla ...	.....	28th March 1895.	
Weekly.						
1	"Sansodhini" ...	Chittagong ...	120			
BENGALI.						
ASSAM.						
Fortnightly.						
1	"Paridarshak" ...	Sylhet ...	240	For the 2nd fortnight of Falgun, 1301 B.S.	* Entries based on information supplied by the Deputy Postmaster-General, Assam.	
2	"Srihattavasi" ...	Ditto ...	* 160	For the 1st fortnight of Chaitra, 1301 B.S.		
Weekly.						
1	"Assam" ...	Gauhati ...	* 700			

* Entries based on information supplied by the Deputy Postmaster-General, Assam.

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Sahachar* of the 27th March is unable to make out the object of the Chitral expedition. If the object be to protect India against a Russian invasion, it can be far more effectively and economically secured by carefully guarding the hill passes. Chitral is far distant even from Gilgit, all communication between which and the plains is impossible during seven or eight months of the year by reason of heavy snowfall, and which is therefore considered by many strategists as an ill-chosen frontier station. If Gilgit is an ill-chosen frontier station, much more so must be Chitral. The only conceivable use of the proposed expedition therefore is that it will afford the military officers an opportunity for promotion. But it is not at all reasonable to spend money which is, as it were, the very heart's blood of the Indian people on an expedition which will serve no other purpose. If England expects any benefit from this expedition, she should pay its expenses. Poor India is not at all in a position to bear the cost of such an expedition. Government should carefully consider this point before it enters on a war with Chitral.

SAHACHAR,
March 27th, 1895.

It is rather curious that Government has forbidden the Amir of Afghanistan to interfere in the affairs of Chitral. If the Amir is really a friend of the English Government, why cannot he be trusted to make a settlement in the interest of his ally, the English Government? Is he only to pocket Indian money and do no service to the English Government in return?

2. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 28th March says that the so-called Armenian outrages, with all possible colouring added to them, are not to be believed at all, yet the Powers compelled the Sultan to send a regiment of cavalry to Armenia to help the Commission during their enquiry. The Powers have, on the strength of a mere rumour, stretched out their helping hand to the Christians of Armenia, but there is none to help the Musalmans of India, who are being persecuted by aliens.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE,
March 28th, 1895.

3. The *Hitavadi* of the 29th March has the following:—

HITAVADI,
March 29th, 1895.

The Chitral question. There is no doubt that the Chitral expedition will be followed by very lamentable consequences. The English will certainly be victorious, but their victory will be purchased at a cost of blood and treasure which one must shudder to contemplate. Umra Khan will not submit without a hard struggle, and the situation will become exceptionally perilous if the inhabitants of the tracts through which the English army will have to pass also rise in arms against them. We know that every precaution is being adopted by the English Government to prevent such concerted hostility on the part of the hill tribes, still we do not feel easy at heart.

This Chitral difficulty is of Government's own seeking. It is not easy to see how the English Government would have been in any way affected even if Chitral had been completely ruined. The only object of the English Government in strengthening the frontiers and entering into alliances with the frontier Chiefs and Princes is to obtain their help in the event of a Russian invasion. This is why Government is subsidizing the Amir. But how far that object will be gained is not certain. Who shall say that those whom the English Government is now humouring with grants of money and arms will not use that money and those arms against that Government itself on a suitable opportunity? The English Government need not look to others for help if it takes care to keep the princes and people of India satisfied, and to properly strengthen the forts and frontiers. But Government distrusts its own subjects and makes grants of money to faithless frontier tribes.

Could not the English Government ask its ally, the Amir, to put down Umra Khan on its behalf? Government has not done so. Friendship that is purchased with money is of no value. It is hard to believe that Government itself does not see this. Was not this very Umra Khan known to be a friend of the English, and did not Government give him 1,200 muskets to make a friend of him?

It is now too late to give up the expedition. We would therefore only ask Government to take pity upon poor India, and to conduct the war with as little expenditure of blood and treasure as possible.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
March 31st, 1895.

4. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 31st March writes as follows:—
The Chitral question.

The *Pioneer* agrees with us in holding Dr. Robertson responsible for the Chitral imbroglio. He ought not to have got offended with Amir for his having ascended the throne of Chitral after putting Nizam to death. He also did wrong in sending reinforcements to Chitral and calling for additional reinforcements from Gilgit. Murdering a brother has become, so to speak, almost a custom with the royal family of Chitral, and the English Government ought not to interfere with a custom, however objectionable it may be. Custom has been respected in Nepal. There have been many changes of Ministers in Nepal, attended with bloodshed and assassination. But the British Government never interfered in the internal affairs of that country. Why should there be a different policy as regards Chitral?

Umra Khan is related by marriage to the Mehters of Chitral. Nizam, like his brother Amir, was his brother-in-law. There was therefore nothing remarkable—and certainly no cause for apprehension—in his coming to Chitral. It is quite possible that he would have placed Amir on the throne. And he would have done nothing wrong even if he had intended to help Sher Afzul, Amir's uncle, in establishing his claim to the throne of Chitral. It is well known that Sher Afzul was driven out of the kingdom by his brother Aman-ul Mulk. The kingdom is hereditary, and nobody can say that Sher Afzul has not a lawful claim to it. The Government had therefore no reason to be offended with the conduct of Umra Khan, even if he tried to place Sher Afzul on the throne.

The Government ought not to object even if Umra Khan were to try to occupy the throne of his father-in-law himself. He has at least precedent on his side. The English people, after they had exiled James II., made his son-in-law, William of Orange, King of England. Why should the British Government ignore all that in its dealings with Chitral?

It will be enough if the existing friendly relations between the Government of India and Chitral are kept up, and the ruling Chief of that country, whoever he may be, does not do anything against the Indian Government. Unwarranted interference leads to difficulty. The Government did wrong if it advised Dr. Robertson to oppose Umra Khan. But if Dr. Robertson took the initiative himself, his fault is simply unpardonable. The difficulty which Dr. Robertson has created in Chitral is far greater than what was created by Mr. Quinton in Manipur. There is little doubt that the hostility of Umra Khan is due to the conduct of Dr. Robertson, who sent Captain Ross and Lieutenant Jones against him. This incident has also led to an outbreak of hostility on the part of the people of Chitral, who have been led by it to form the belief that the English Government means to occupy their country.

It should, moreover, be borne in mind that matters did not come to a crisis before the Government began to collect a large force in Peshawar to help Dr. Robertson. Umra Khan had been till then declaring himself on friendly terms with the British Government, who alone should be therefore held responsible for his present hostile attitude. Appearances were against the British Government. A large force was ready in Peshawar to march into Chitral, while a detachment of troops under Ross and Jones were actually marching against Umra Khan. All these threw Umra Khan and the people of Chitral into a sort of frenzy. They opposed the progress of the English troops, and in an encounter killed 46 soldiers and 8 followers. This sad incident has intensified the difficulty. The blood of the dead must be revenged, but the task will not be an easy one. Both Umra Khan and Sher Afzul are brave men, and to bring them to subjection will be a far more difficult task than the subjugation of Manipur. Neither of them will be able to hold out to the last, but they will give the Government a good deal of trouble before they yield.

But what will be the line of policy that will be followed when Umra Khan and Sher Afzul are defeated? It is quite reasonable to think that the Government will be satisfied simply with punishing Umra Khan, and will not try to occupy his territory in Bajour. But Chitral will certainly be taken, and that will mean an addition to the useless expenditure of the Government of India.

If it is intended to conclude a peace with Umra Khan after the war is over, it will be an act of greater magnanimity to pardon him now, especially

when there is no reason to hold him greatly responsible for any offence that he may have committed. The *Pioneer* is quite right in saying that it will be a great gain to have such a powerful Chief and clever politician as Umra Khan for a friend. It is very necessary that we should make as many friends as possible on the frontiers. It will not be advisable to force Umra Khan to side with Russia with his large number of followers, which he will certainly do if he is given an occasion to feel himself offended with the British Government. It will not also be proper to extend the boundaries of India still further. A line must be drawn somewhere, and if we do not draw the line at once, the boundaries will ever go on extending, and will gradually bring us face to face with Russia. From Peshawar the boundaries have extended to Gilgit. From Gilgit they may extend to Chitral, and from Chitral to the Pamirs. But this will be going too far into the neighbourhood of Russia.

Lord Elgin has been placed in the midst of difficulties very soon after his arrival in India. He is surrounded on all sides by military officers, and he is being guided too much by their counsels; and the Secretary of State appears to be depending entirely on the Government here. The difficulty is due solely to Dr. Robertson and his colleagues in Chitral, and it has been aggravated by the military advisers of the Viceroy. The people of India, however, will be the only people to suffer the consequences of the mistaken policy. The cost of the expedition is estimated in the budget at 15 lakhs; but the actual cost will greatly exceed that. The burden of the cost will certainly be too heavy for India to bear.

The Governor-General has come forward to defend the Government officers connected with the incident and to exonerate them from blame. His Excellency has tried to show that interference on the part of the Government became necessary, and that it had every right to interfere. The Viceroy has not, however, been able to put forward any new argument strong enough to defend his subordinates. It is a matter of great regret that the Viceroy should so soon yield to the influence of the jingoes who surround him. The British Government will no doubt come out victorious in the end, and we shall share in its victory. But the poor people of India will have to bear the consequences and a very heavy burden of expenditure.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

5. The *Hitavadi* of the 29th March says that Fulta in South Barrackpore is as much troubled by oppressions by English soldiers as Mahestala is by oppressions by military grass-cutters. Government has up to this time taken little notice of the complaints about this military oppression at Fulta. Lately certain inhabitants of Fulta have submitted to the Charirman of the South Barrackpore Municipality a petition to the following effect:—

“Every Thursday and Sunday a body of five or six English soldiers come to Fulta, and instead of walking on the main roads, go into the interior of the village and prowl about people's houses with wicked purposes. At the time at which they come to the village the male inhabitants are almost all away from home on business, so that in many houses not a single male member is to be found. On the 14th March last, at about 1 P.M., a soldier was found near a house in which there were at that time only one man and one woman. Understanding the wicked intention of the soldier, the woman locked the house door and stole out. The soldier then entered the house yard, and finding the door locked, broke the lock open, broke open a box, and abstracted from it some silver ornaments, and left three fowls killed. Such oppression is committed by soldiers in many other houses in the village.”

The Municipal Chairman has forwarded the petition to the Magistrate for the necessary action. If the Magistrate is a lover of order, he will certainly take steps to put a stop to the oppressions complained of. If he does not take such steps, the people will be driven to a state of despair and will take the law into their own hands.

HITAVADI,
March 29th, 1895.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

AL PUNCH,
March 21st, 1895.

6. *Al Punch* of the 21st March regrets the appointment of a Bengali Hindu as Government Pleader of Patna, and says that Government might have chosen a man from among the Biharis to succeed Maulvi Khuda Baksh, Khan Bahadur. By appointing a Bengali as Government Pleader of Patna, Government has encroached upon the claims of the Biharis pleaders.

CHARU MIHIR,
March 26th, 1895.

7. The *Charu Mihir* of the 26th March learns from a Tangail correspondent that in a certain case the Deputy Magistrate of Tangail summarily sentenced the accused to four months' imprisonment. But after the accused's *mukhtars* had applied for a copy of the decision, the Deputy Magistrate came to learn that in that particular case he was not competent to award imprisonment for a term exceeding three months. He therefore corrected his judgment and the jail warrant. The writer cannot bring himself to believe that a judicial officer can have acted in this way. The charge is serious, and the District Magistrate should enquire into it.

TRIPURA PRAKASH,
March 28th, 1895.

8. The *Tripura Prakash* of the 28th March is not satisfied with the answer given by Mr. Cotton to Babu Surendranath's question regarding postponements in Munsifs' courts. Does Government refuse to admit that Munsifs are overworked? Does it mean to say that Munsifs postpone cases in sheer caprice? The effect of the maintenance of the register of postponed cases recently prescribed by the High Court will be that, in the hope of winning the good opinion of the authorities and earning promotion in the Service, Munsifs will dispose of cases with all possible despatch, without regarding the quality of their decisions. With a view to the despatch of business, Government has also conferred summary powers on a large number of Munsifs. But everybody knows what sort of justice is dispensed under this system.

VIKRAMPUR,
March 28th, 1895.

9. The *Vikrampur* of the 28th March says that according to the *Dacca Gazette*, Mr. Lucas, Deputy Magistrate of Narayanganj, in the Dacca district, recently sentenced a man to imprisonment without first writing out the judgment in the case. Was not a law passed the other day, making it incumbent on judicial officers to read out judgments or their substance before passing sentences? If so, this was nice compliance with the law on Mr. Lucas' part.

HITAVADI,
March 29th, 1895.

10. Referring to the rumour that Honorary Munsifs will be appointed to try civil suits in the North-Western Provinces, the *Hitavadi* of the 29th March says that if these Munsifs are selected as indiscriminately as Honorary Magistrates are now selected in Bengal, great harm will be done. Justice is now sold in the country, and if in addition to this a large number of honorary judicial officers are appointed, the people will fare hard. Government should carefully consider this matter. Every work, it should be remembered, cannot be got done gratuitously.

HITAVADI.

11. The same paper has the following:—

The question of the High Court's powers.

The *Indian Daily News* is alarmed to hear a rumour to the effect that certain officials intend to agitate in the Council of the Secretary of State for the curtailment of the powers of the Indian High Courts. This, however, is not a new intention among the officials. Our present precious Lieutenant-Governor has spared no pains to get the powers of the High Court curtailed. There was a quarrel between him and the local High Court, and both ultimately carried their appeals to the Secretary of State, who adroitly arbitrated between them in a manner that was expected to be acceptable to both. While regretting the many difficulties which the Lieutenant-Governor has to contend with in carrying on the work of administration, the Secretary of State could not approve of any interference on his part which would have the effect of shaking the people's faith in the High Court's justice.

The High Court is the only refuge from the oppressions which are committed by the powerful civilian rulers, and it is natural that those rulers should be

anxious to curtail its powers. There is no reason, therefore, to consider the rumour published by the *Indian Daily News* as false or unfounded.

Whether redress is always to be had from the High Court or not, it is a fact that people do entertain the hope that they will obtain justice there. The High Court is regarded as the shield which protects the weak, the hope of those in despair, and the refuge of the oppressed. The officials should remember that any attempt to curtail the powers of the High Court will therefore kindle a terrible fire in the country, and that such an attempt will ultimately fail, no matter whether there be an Elliott or a Crosthwaite in the Council of the Secretary of State to support it.

12. The *Mihir* of the 29th March says that it is not satisfied with the reply given by Mr. Cotton to Babu Surendranath Banerjee's question regarding the large number of postponements in Munsifs' courts. To urge the Munsifs, hardworked as they already are, to dispose of cases more quickly, would be to interfere with their judicial independence—which is not at all desirable—and would lead to miscarriage of justice. It is a notorious fact, admitted by the High Court itself, that a large number of Munsifs die a premature death in consequence of hard work.

It is the inadequate staff given to the Munsifs which is responsible for the large number of postponements which cause unspeakable hardship to suitors. And instead of doing anything to remove this inconvenience of the suitors, Government is going to increase it by transferring many munsifs to the Sadar—a policy which will place justice out of the reach of the poor, and subject them to greater oppression by the rich. Take, for instance, the case of the Begamganj Munsifi in the Noakhali district, which has been removed to the Sadar. Will a poor suitor be able to conduct a suit in the Sadar, which may be two or three days' journey from his place of residence, especially if the case is postponed five or six times?

The whole province should therefore petition the Lieutenant-Governor, protesting against the policy of removing munsifs to the Sadar, and praying for an increase in the number of Munsifs.

13. The *Banganivasi* of the 29th March says that Sir Charles Elliott cannot see that any inconvenience has been caused by the abolition of the Begamganj Munsifi and the Chudanga subdivision, by the transfer of Bongong to Jessore and by the transfer of many police stations in the Nadia district, although the people of those places feel the greatest inconvenience from such abolitions and transfers. It is good policy not to see in the conduct of the administration any inconvenience of the people, and throughout the period of nearly five years during which Sir Charles has administered Bengal, he has not been able to see any such inconvenience.

14. The same paper says that Sessions Judges are becoming very rampant. *Zulm* and a tendency to be whimsical have become the marked characteristics of some Sessions Judges. Here is a fresh instance. One Ala Bux, a man with previous convictions, and three other persons were tried before Mr. Douglas, Sessions Judge of Dacca, on a charge of having stolen some shirts. The jurors gave a unanimous verdict of "not guilty," and Ala Bux had therefore to be discharged. On being discharged, Ala Bux *salaamed* Mr. Douglas with both his hands, on which Mr. Douglas got very angry and exclaimed: "You *sala lok*, I do not want your *salaam*." Mr. Douglas went on: "If I had tried this case with the aid of assessors. I would have certainly sent them to jail." Hearing the Judge make this remark, the accused's pleader said: "It is fortunate that the case was tried by a jury." To this the Judge replied: "No Babu, that was a misfortune. These men are certainly guilty." Mr. Douglas then enquired whether any relative of Ala Bux was present in court, and on the accused's old father having been pointed out to him, addressing the man he said: "Your son is a great rascal. Very well. Go to your father-in-law's house" (a slang term for jail in the vernacular). Is this justice? Is this maintaining the dignity of a law court? Is this maintaining peace in the Queen's holy empire? Sir Charles should on the eve of his departure do something to check such wantonness on the part of the Judges.

Mihir,
March 29th, 1895.

Banganivasi,
March 29th, 1895.

Banganivasi.

PRATIKAR,
March 29th, 1895.

15. The *Pratikar* of the 29th March says that it is contemplated to pass a law with the object of appointing Honorary Munsifs in the North-Western Provinces, and that a Bill to that effect has already been framed. Some of the Bengal papers are recommending the adoption of a similar policy in this province. But this is not a sound advice. The Honorary Magistracy is already a source of hardship, and an Honorary Munsifship will only aggravate the evil. Unpaid service is never well done.

SANJIVANI,
March 30th, 1895.

16. The *Sanjivani* of the 30th March says that Mr. Douglas, District Judge of Dacca, is in the habit of abusing accused persons and witnesses in the filthiest language. According to the *Dacca Gazette*, when recently rejecting an appeal, he enquired if any relative of the accused person was present in court. On being told that the father of the culprit was present, he addressed him in these words:—

“তোয়ার পুত্র শালা বড় পাজি আছে, চল স্বত্তর বাড়ী চল।” It is for the authorities to consider whether a man who can be so merry for sending a man to jail is fit to hold the office of a Judge.

SANJIVANI.

17. The same paper refers to the case of tampering with certain documents deposited in the Nawabganj Munsifi in the Rajshahi district, and says that though the forgery was committed more than a month ago, nothing has yet been done to get the forgers punished. The case clearly proves how corrupt the ministerial officers have become, and points to the urgent necessity of reform in this direction. A proper investigation into the present case will bring to light many strange doings on the part of the court amla.

HINDI BANGAVANI,
April 1st, 1895.

18. The *Hindi Bangavani* of the 1st April says that a certain European soldier who shot dead a native who forbade him to enter his compound to pick up a bird which he had shot has been discharged by the Allahabad High Court. So, it is useless on the part of a native to bring a criminal charge against a European.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 2nd, 1895.

19. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 2nd April, referring to the discussion on the Provincial Budget, has something to say in regard to the observations made on the subject of the house accommodation of Munsifs. Mr. Beighton joined Babu Surendranath Banerjee in asking Government to provide the Munsifs with better house accommodation. But the Lieutenant-Governor and his Chief Secretary said that the Munsifs being generally very thrifty would not be likely to agree to pay the enhanced rent which Government would have to demand from them in case of their being provided with better house accommodation. The writer thinks that this is a correct view of the matter, and he does not agree with Mr. Beighton that Munsifs will gladly pay higher rents. The Lieutenant-Governor is contemplating a different arrangement for the accommodation of Munsifs, and Government is in communication with the High Court on the subject. But whatever the decision that is come to, it would not be advisable to ask the zamindars to build houses for the Munsifs. The Munsifs should be given no occasion for entering into any obligation with the people of the locality in which they have to administer justice.

(d)—Education.

BHARAT MITRA,
March 28th, 1895.

20. The *Bharat Mitra* of the 28th March recommends, in view of the prevalence of fever and small-pox, the closing of all educational institutions in Calcutta on the 6th April next.

SAMAY,
March 29th, 1895.

21. The *Samay* of the 29th March says that if Government had any desire to put a stop to abuses in the Education Department, it would not entrust the Inspectors of Schools, whose lists of text-books for middle English and middle vernacular schools have been found fault with year after year, with the selection of text-books for the Entrance schools too. The writer does not remember having ever noticed in the press any complaint regarding any text-book used in any Entrance schools. Few Inspectors of Schools are graduates like the

teachers of Entrance schools, and few of them also possess the honesty for which those teachers are so noted. And yet the power of selecting text-books for their own schools has been, on a ridiculous pretext, taken away from these teachers and conferred on self-seeking Inspectors of Schools (though, of course, all School Inspectors are not such) who will now introduce almost the same text-books into all schools. Thus, instead of being checked, self-seeking Inspectors have been furnished with greater facilities for attaining their selfish ends.

Theft cannot be checked even by providing the severest penalty against it. But the utmost that is done to check a self-seeking School Inspector is to call upon him for an explanation. Fine justice this! It is owing to such injustice that the educated community are getting more and more offended with the authorities, good books are ceasing to be published, and the education given in the schools is not so satisfactory as could be wished for. It rends one's heart to think that shrewd and selfish men now fill posts which were once held by learned, just, and godlike men.

23. The *Sanjivani* of the 30th March praises the Committee of the Boys'

The native boys' athletic performances on the maidan.

Athletic Club for the nice arrangements made on the maidan on the occasion of the late exhibition.

In one respect, however, the management was much to blame, and that was that the native editors or their representatives, though invited, like European editors, by complimentary cards, were not allowed to come near the place where the games took place. If the representatives of the native papers were not to be allowed the same privileges as the representatives of the English papers, they should not have been invited at all.

SANJIVANI,
March 30th, 1895.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

22. The *Som Prakash* of the 25th March observes that Government was

The small-pox epidemic in Calcutta.

ill-advised in doing away with the system of inoculation and enforcing the system of vaccination.

The system of vaccination has been in force in the country for a long time, but its effects have not fulfilled the expectations that were entertained in regard to its success. The present small-pox epidemic in Calcutta would not have raged with such force if the system of inoculation had been in force. One who has once been inoculated may count upon his immunity from contagion for ever. But a person once vaccinated has to be revaccinated every year, or at least once in three or four years, if he is to be at all sure of his security. For vaccination seems to impair the constitution in a way which makes its repetition in this manner necessary. Government ought to give the people the liberty to choose the particular system in which they may have confidence. Government has given them this liberty in the matter of medical treatment, and it ought to extend to them the same liberty in the matter of vaccination and inoculation.

SOM PRAKASH,
March 25th, 1895.

24. The *Sanjivani* of the 30th March says that only four Union Com-

Union Committees in the Nadia district.

mittees will be established in the Nadia district, namely, one with the villages Krishnaganj, Bhajan-ghat, and some others, one at Muragatcha, one at

Chuadanga, and a fourth at Poradah. The Magistrate recommended two more in the Ranaghat subdivision and some others in each of the villages Joyrampur, Damurhuda, Durgapur, &c. But Government has not sanctioned these. It is, indeed, surprising that no Committee will be established either in the Kushtia or in the Ranaghat subdivision. Village sanitation will not improve so long as Union Committees are not established in every village.

SANJIVANI,
March 30th, 1895.

(h)—General.

25. The *Charu Mihir* of the 26th March writes as follows:—

Taxation in India.

The Indians are almost crushed by their heavy burden of taxation, and yet such is the prodigality of the Government that there is always a deficit in its exchequer, to make up which it finds it necessary to impose ever and anon a fresh tax.

In violation of the Permanent Settlement—which Government may now regret, but which has certainly contributed towards the firm establishment of British rule in India—Government has imposed the road and public works cesses. These cesses touch not only the zamindars but the poor cultivators as

CHARU MIHIR,
March 26th, 1895.

well. And now Government proposes to levy a drainage tax, although drainage was one of the avowed objects for which the above two cesses were imposed. That Government should now find it necessary to impose a drainage tax clearly shows how it appropriates the proceeds of taxes to purposes other than those for which they are originally imposed.

Maintenance of peace is an indispensable duty of a Government and the cost of maintaining peace should therefore be paid from the general fund of a Government. But the Indians have to pay a *chaukidari* tax for the maintenance of peace in the country, and this tax is felt by them as an oppressive burden.

The *patwari* cess is an equally heavy burden on the people of Oudh and the North-Western Provinces.

The license tax has now become the income-tax. Government is taking away from the people a portion of their hard-earned money. That European officers too have to pay this tax is no mitigation of the Indian's suffering. Besides, European officers have been favoured by the grant of exchange compensation allowances. As the income-tax is now assessed, many people with an annual income of only Rs. 250 are assessed to it. This tax is all the more oppressive as objections against its assessment are seldom heeded.

The indirect taxes too are not less oppressive. The tax on salt, which is an indispensable article of food and indispensable for the health of cattle is painfully felt. India, which is surrounded on three sides by the sea and which abounds in materials out of which salt can be produced, can produce salt at a very small cost. But the duty that is levied on salt has made that article so dear that millions of Indians cannot buy it. This dearness of salt is also leading to the deterioration of Indian cattle. The Secretary of State himself admitted the other day that this salt tax was a grievous burden on the Indians. But the admission of an evil in words of mouth alone is of little value. The English cannot give up any source of income. The import duties are also making their sting sorely felt, by increasing the prices of articles.

Justice, which is sold in no other country, is sold in India. The Indians have to pay a tax for justice in the shape of stamps. This tax is felt as a grievous burden by the people. But Government pays no heed to this grievance. Ever new laws are increasing litigation and making the people poorer. The Indians are a very patient and loyal people, and they trust to Government's sense of justice for redress in this matter.

Sir David Barbour has shown that during the last nine years taxation has been increased in India by five and a half crores. Increase of taxation by five and a half crores in a country whose people have an average annual income of less than Rs. 20 is something dreadful. The picture of the poverty of India which has been drawn by Dadabhai Naoroji, Sir Auckland Colvin, and Mr. Dacosta, is not in the least overdrawn.

The Musalman Government was a very luxurious Government, and yet it never suffered from deficit like the English Government. Shah Jehan spent crores of rupees on different works and yet left immense hoards in the public treasury. The fame of British rule in India has spread to the remotest corners of the earth and yet that Government cannot undertake any public work without sucking the life blood of its people to the last drop. But this sucking process cannot go on long. As soon as the public in England realize the poverty of India, it must come to an end.

26. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 27th March observes that, judging from the great ability and reputation with which Mr. Romesh Chunder Dutt was acting as the Commissioner of Burdwan, the public had good reason

Mr. Romesh Chunder Dutt
reverting to the Magistrateship.

to believe that he would be made permanent in that post. They are therefore disappointed to see Mr. Bourdillon made the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division and Mr. Dutt revert to his original post of a Magistrate. Mr. Bourdillon is no doubt Mr. Dutt's senior by one year. But could not the Lieutenant-Governor, nevertheless, make an arrangement which would have been more satisfactory to all the parties concerned? One is inclined to think that the independence and fearlessness with which Mr. Dutt discharged his official duties were not approved by Government, and he has been therefore degraded. Thanks to the sense of justice of the Lieutenant-Governor.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
March 27th, 1895.

27. The *Banganivasi* of the 29th March says that the fact of the Madras Government having issued a circular declaring that officers will be held responsible for the acceptance of

BANGANIVASI,
March 29th, 1895.

A bribe circular for Bengal. bribes and presents by their wives, clearly shows that that Government suspects its officers of receiving bribes and presents through their wives. The Madras Government has acted rightly by issuing this circular, for a Government ought to check evil-doing on the part of its officers, instead of concealing it. In Bengal, too, the fact of Mr. Fordyce having accepted bribes has been clearly proved in a law court. Will Sir Charles Elliott now do at the earnest solicitation of the public what the Madras Government has done of its own motion? Good proposals, however, have little chance of being accepted by Sir Charles.

28. The same paper cannot feel reassured by the surplus of Rs. 42,000 which Sir James Westland has shown in the budget.

BANGANIVASI.

The budget. There are good reasons to fear that this year too there will be a deficit instead of a surplus. The expenditure has been estimated at only 15 lakhs of rupees. But so many wars are imminent, that this sum is sure to be found too small for the necessary military operations.

Again, the fluctuations in exchange are such that there is no knowing what a loss Government will suffer in the event of a further fall in the price of silver.

The main sources of revenue indicated in the budget are not also such as one can approve of and rejoice at. These sources are railway, opium, and land. But the profit from railways is leading to further railway extensions; the large income which is derived from opium prevents Government from giving up the trade in that commodity and the immense revenue which is derived from land is leading Government to raise the land revenue in Assam and to make efforts for the abolition of the Permanent Settlement.

Sir James Westland is, however, deserving of thanks for having raised the pay of the native troops from Rs. 7 to Rs. 9 each. This is a wise act. This increase of pay will certainly increase the loyalty of the native troops, who, as the Government is aware, are the main defence of the empire, and whose dissatisfaction brought about the memorable Sepoy Mutiny.

29. The *Hitavadi* of the 29th March says that if the budget for 1895-96 had inspired the people with half the hope and filled them with half the delight that Sir James

HITAVADI,
March 29th, 1895.

Westland felt in the course of preparing it, they would have sung his praise with one voice. But the people are not cheered by Sir James' hopeful financial forecast, for they cannot rely on the promises of Government. On the contrary, they are troubled by many fears.

In the present budget the further cost of the Waziristan wars has been estimated at 9 lakhs of rupees. A treaty is said to have been concluded with Waziristan. Why should then 9 lakhs of rupees more be set down as the cost of military operations in that tract? Can Sir James Westland tell the Indian people what good has been derived from the victory which has been gained in Waziristan and from the frontier wars generally?

Wars for the pacification of the frontier tribes and the frontier fortifications both seem to be interminable affairs. Many such wars have been already made, and yet there is the Waziristan difficulty and the Chitral war. The work of frontier fortifications too began under Lord Lytton, and no one knows when it will end.

For these reasons the Indians cannot be reassured by Sir James Westland's hopeful statements. Government has imposed a duty on imports as well as on Indian trade. It has also laid hands on the famine fund. The writer is alarmed because he cannot conceive any additional source from which to meet a fresh financial demand or difficulty.

30. The same paper says that the public cannot put any faith in the evidence given before the Hemp Drugs Commission

HITAVADI.

The Hemp Drugs Commission. until they know what sort of witnesses were examined by the Commission and how those witnesses prepared their answers. Whatever Government or the Commission may say, people cannot disbelieve what they themselves see every day. That hemp heats and irritates the system is an incontrovertible fact.

Government is interested in retaining the hemp and opium monopolies, and its statements in favour of the use of the two drugs are therefore open to suspicion. It is certain that Government will not give up these iniquitous trades. Why then has it wasted money, which is, as it were, the very heart's blood of the Indians, on a showy Commission?

Mihir,
March 29th, 1895.

31. The *Mihir* of the 29th March says that everybody will be glad at the appointment of Khan Bahadur Maulavi Delawar Hosain Ahmed to the Inspector-Generalship of Registration. The Lieutenant-Governor has earned the thanks of the people of Bengal by rewarding such a meritorious officer.

Sanjivani,
March 30th, 1895.

32. The *Sanjivani* of the 30th March has the following remarks on Government's Resolution on the Report of the Hemp Drugs Commission :—

The Resolution on the Report of the Hemp Drugs Commission.

A review of the whole evidence brought before the Commission has not convinced Government that the use of the hemp drugs is increasing in a greater ratio than can be accounted for by growth of population and by improved administration and means of information. It was known beforehand that Government would arrive at no other conclusion. The Commission was merely a contrivance intended to silence the public, who are stupid enough to be repeatedly deceived by this machinery of Commissions which bear no fruit.

Government has accepted the conclusion arrived at by the Commission—that interference with the use of hemp drugs may be regarded by its consumers as an interference with religious liberty. But would Government have been so anxious about the religious liberty of its subjects if the consumption of hemp drugs had not been intimately connected with its revenue?

The Commission has arrived at the conclusion that a moderate use of ganja in any form is not hurtful. But from the evidence before them, the Commission could not say what a moderate use of ganja was.

The remark made by Khan Bahadur Kadir Dad Gul Khan, C.I.E., of Sind, has cut Government to the quick. When it cannot stop the use of alcohol, with what face can it stop the use of ganja? So Government has determined to let ganja smoking go on. A nice determination, indeed!

The Commission seems to have proved that the popular impression that the hemp drugs are a fruitful source of insanity is erroneous. Government, on its part, has admitted that the use of hemp drugs causes insanity, but it says that the number of cases of insanity caused by the use of hemp drugs is far fewer than the number of cases caused in other ways, and that the disease in the former case is of shorter duration. But is it true that insanity caused by the use of hemp drugs is of shorter duration, or is it a fact that it causes a speedier death?

Though Government has admitted that the excessive use of hemp drugs may bring the consumer to poverty, and so lead him to dishonest practices, and that cases have been known in which excessive use of hemp drugs has brought about violent crime, yet the Governor-General in Council thinks that there are no such marked ill effects—physical, mental, or moral—attending the use of hemp drugs as was popularly believed before the present enquiry was made.

Government will not prohibit the use of ganja, because such prohibition will be an interference with the liberty of the subject, and will deprive a large number of people of a harmless pleasure. Government writes: "It would, in the opinion of the Governor-General in Council, amount to oppression to take active measures to suppress it (ganja), on the mere ground that it is possible to quote isolated instances in which individuals have received injury from its use. Nor can the Government commit themselves to so unequal a measure as the suppression of the use of ganja (which is the form in which the poor man uses the drug) and the permission of the use of bhang (which is the milder form in which the better situated classes enjoy it). There seems to the Governor-General in Council no argument in favour of the prohibition of ganja which would not equally apply to the enforcement by State agency, of total abstinence from intoxicating or stimulating liquors and drugs throughout India—a proposal which is not within the range of practical politics." It is useless to

say anything after this. Let the public decide whether the argument is one worthy of a Christian Government.

Government will only try to restrict the use of ganja by making stringent rules regarding its cultivation and retail sale, and by putting a heavier tax upon it. The tax, however, will not be so increased as to put the drug out of the reach of those who cannot do without it. These assurances, however, seem to be a mere sop given to the public.

33. The *Sulabh Dainik* of the 30th March has the following about the Imperial Budget:—

SULABH DAINIK,
March 30th, 1895.

The Imperial Budget.

There lived in East Bengal a very poor Brahman, Gopinath Chakravarti by name. He had a rich neighbour, who used to celebrate the Durga Puja every year. One day in the month of Aswin, Gopinath met the potter who used to make the image of Durga for his neighbour and asked him: "Where are you going?" The man tauntingly replied: "I am going to your house to make Durga's image." This offended the Brahman very much, and he forced the potter to make an image of the goddess for him, and resolved to celebrate the Durga Puja. He counted on the help of his neighbours in the matter of funds, and thought that the presents of his friends would leave him a considerable surplus after meeting the expenses of the puja. But in the end the funds furnished by his neighbours fell so far short of his requirements, that he had considerable difficulty in saving his *bastu* land from the clutches of the moneylender. Now, the Government of India is just now in the position of this Gopinath celebrating the Durga Puja. Like Gopinath, it expects to have a large surplus from the proceeds of the newly imposed taxes, but it is destined to be as much disappointed in the end as that gentleman was after the celebration of his puja. Sir James Westland has put down only 14 lakhs of rupees as the cost of the Chitral expedition. But considering that the expedition which was undertaken last year against the Wazirsis cost 29 lakhs, where is the guarantee that the proposed expedition will not cost 14 crores instead of 14 lakhs? Under Lord Lansdowne many dishonest Englishmen cheated Government out of large sums of money by taking compensation allowances to which they were not entitled. Their trickery has been detected by the Finance Member, and some saving effected under the head of grants for compensation allowances. But with an unstable exchange, no reliance can be placed on the savings under this head.

According to the Finance Member, only a crore and a half remain to be spent on account of the North-Western frontier defences. But considering that Government will never get rid of its Russophobia, and that every Governor-General makes it a point to spend something on the protection of the frontier, there is absolutely no guarantee that the expenses under this head will in future keep themselves within the sum allotted by the Finance Member. Again, as taxation has reached its maximum limit and Government will never earnestly set about curtailing expenditure, Sir James Westland is sure to find in the end that, instead of having a surplus, he "has less than nothing" in the exchequer.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

34. The *Banganvāsi* of the 29th March says that the practice has become frequent of late of issuing deceptive imitations of successful books with the closest resemblance in name, size, covering, &c. The writer is not sure whether this is forbidden by the law. The Copyright Act requires to be thoroughly amended.

BANGANIVASI,
March 29th, 1895.

Amendment of the Copyright Act.

whether this is forbidden by the law. The Copyright Act requires to be thoroughly amended.

35. The *Hitavādi* of the 29th March says that the replies given by the North-Western Provinces Government to two questions put by Babu Charu Chandra Mittra in the local Council are not a little amusing. These replies show that that Government is now lost to all sense of shame,

HITAVADI,
March 29th, 1895.

Replies given by the North-Western Provinces Government to two interpellations.

and can therefore avow the commission of wrong acts with quite a brazen effrontery. That Government has now publicly declared that it gives all its printing work to the Pioneer Press, and that at rates higher than what would be charged by any other press. The reason assigned for doing the Pioneer Press such favour was that no other press was able to execute work so neatly

and so promptly. A few years ago, with a view to conceal this improper favouritism, that Government used to give a portion of its printing work to the Indian Herald Press and other presses. But it has now grown bolder and it gives all its printing work to the Pioneer Press.

The second reply was not less strange than the first. The *Punjab Patriot* and the *Haptabar*, it was stated, are taken by the Education Department because they are useful in setting dictation and translation exercises to students, as if, forsooth, that purpose could not be served by any other newspaper. This is the oddest and most ridiculous plea the writer has ever come across.

BAGURA DARPAN,
March 29th, 1895.

36. The *Bagura Darpan* of the 29th March, continuing its observations on the Sanitary Drainage Bill, says that the road cess and public works cess funds at the disposal of the

District Boards are not sufficient for the construction of new roads when necessary, and for the maintenance in a state of repair of those already existing. If, therefore, they are forced to contribute a quota towards the cost of constructing drains, they will have to suffer very much more from insufficiency of funds. In fact, the entire pressure will fall upon the zamindars, tenure-holders, and raiyats of the locality in which drains will be made. The members of the District Boards are not elected by the people, and they therefore possess very little knowledge of local wants. It is also notorious that most of the members of the District Boards, including their Collector-Chairmen, belong to the class of *ap-ke-wasta* zamindars. It is therefore almost certain that the Boards will be forced to pay the cost of constructing drains, even if they have no funds at their disposal and even if the people of the locality do not feel the necessity of drainage. The people will consequently be burdened with a fresh tax against their will. There is therefore hardly any necessity of passing the Sanitary Drainage Bill in this country of half-fed and disease-ridden people. It is extremely doubtful if sanitary drainage alone will improve the sanitation of the Bengal villages. Locked-up water is not the only cause of their unhealthiness. It is one of many causes. Drainage may remove one of the causes, but not all. Let the starving people first get sufficient to eat and a plentiful supply of pure water. After that let them have a good drainage system if you like.

Under the 3rd section of the Bill, raiyats will have to bear the largest portion of the burden, but unfortunately this section makes no provision for consulting them about the necessity or otherwise of a particular scheme of drainage in their locality. Such a provision ought to be made in the Bill, and the authorities should not depend entirely upon the opinion of the District Boards.

In the 8th section of the Bill it is provided that when a District Board thinks it necessary to construct drains in a particular locality, it should give a written notice to the people of that locality, inviting them to put forward objections to the scheme, if they have any, within a month from the time of its publication. The notice is to be written in the vernacular of the locality, and should be attached to every Munsif's court, police station, and post office in the villages within it. This, however, will not be a sufficient publication. It should be circulated by beat of drum, as in the case of a notice issued under the Code of Civil Procedure. The village people are almost all illiterate, and they will not understand a notice which they cannot read.

Section 11 leaves it entirely to the discretion of Government to fix the amount of the burden which it will itself bear. Instead of this, the law should lay down the minimum amount of cost which Government must pay in a particular case. In the 31st section it is provided that a fine shall be levied on persons obstructing any drainage. But nowhere in the Bill is anything said as to what will be done with the money that will be thus raised. The fine thus levied should go to increase the funds to be raised for the purpose of constructing drains.

SANJIVANI,
March 30th, 1895.

37. The *Sanjivani* of the 30th March is not satisfied with the provision in the Lepers Act making it applicable only to municipalities. The law will not touch lepers who carry

on trades or go about begging outside municipal areas, and in this way spread infection.

38. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 2nd April thus remarks on the debate on the budget statement:—

The budget debate.

Just as in the case of passing a law so also in the case of a discussion of the budget statement, Government does not hold itself bound by any obligation to respect the opinions of the non-official members of the Legislative Council. In passing a law Government is bound to take votes, but in the case of a discussion of a budget statement there is not even that obligation. It is enough that the official members passively listen to what a non-official member has to say. Some of them may now and then deign to reply, others feel disposed to call the non-official members names. The remarks of the non-official members are lost upon the official members. They are forgotten as soon as they are heard, the official members all the while laughing in their sleeves, enjoying a comfortable nap, or preparing themselves for a quarrel.

It was, however, a good object with which the system of discussing the budget statement was introduced in the Legislative Councils. It was intended that Government should have an opportunity of consulting the opinion of the public on the financial condition of the country. But the Anglo-Indian officials are affected by the incurable malady of being impatient of adverse public criticism. Any non-official member who may have independence enough to protest against their conduct becomes an object of their wrath, and some of them so far forget themselves as to go beyond the bounds of common courtesy. Such things happen not only at the time of a budget debate, but also at the time of passing a law. Witness, for example, how Sir James Westland went beyond the bounds of moderation and courtesy in taking Mr. Mehta to task for his having protested against the Police Bill and complained against the high-handedness of some Magistrates. A similar scene was enacted during the last budget debate, when the Finance Member, Sir James Westland, the Home Member, Sir Antony MacDonnell, the Military Member, Sir Henry Brackenbury, and, last of all, our haughty Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Charles Elliott—who is always impatient of criticism—could not contain themselves, but condemned Mr. Mehta for his spirited protest against Government's extravagant expenditure of public money.

The fact is, that any independent and fearless criticism of official measures, coming from the native public is simply unbearable to the Anglo-Indian officials. The Finance Member, the Home Member, the Military Member, and the Lieutenant-Governor regard themselves as unfailing judgment, absolute power, and infallible knowledge incarnate. They cannot, therefore, bear the sight of an insignificant person like Mr. Mehta disputing their rights. The guilt of Mr. Mehta is unpardonable, and uncontrollable is the wrath of the officials. The dignity of the Legislative Councils is not sufficient to keep them within the bounds of moderation. In the Parliament British Ministers have often to undergo severer criticism, but there is a difference between India and England.

39. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika* of the 3rd April says that, in the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor, Hon'ble Members should exercise moderation in putting interpellations to the Council. They had better

Interpellations in the Bengal Council.

not put interpellations on questions regarding which they can easily obtain information privately from the Secretaries. This can be done if the Hon'ble Members consult the Secretaries before they frame their questions. The Lieutenant-Governor also says that no interpellation should be put in the Council which smacks of opposition to Government. It is evident that His Honour, unlike some of the non-official members, does not like to introduce the Parliamentary system into the Indian Legislative Councils in connection with the subject of interpellation. The Lieutenant-Governor does not see the good of putting a multiplicity of questions, when Government has nothing to conceal from the members of the Council. This may be theoretically correct, but in practice the Secretaries in many cases do try to conceal information. But as the Lieutenant-Governor himself denies that Government has anything to conceal, he should be taken at his word. The writer is as much pleased as the Lieutenant-Governor to see the tone of moderation in which the Hon'ble Members discussed the Provincial Budget. And it would be a great

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 2nd, 1895.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
April 3rd, 1895.

pleasure to see the Lieutenant-Governor maintain the same moderation in the Supreme Council which he has shown in his own.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

SAHACHAR,
March 27th, 1895.

40. The *Sahachar* of the 27th March has the following:—

The deposition of the Maharaja of Bharatpur. Lord Elgin's Government has done a most foolish act. The public will be sorry to hear that the Government of India has deposed the Maharaja of Bharatpur. Lord Lansdowne's Government made itself unpopular by deposing the Maharaja of Cashmere. Lord Lansdowne, although he possessed many good qualities, was in many matters a puppet in the hands of his councillors, and the impression was then prevalent in political circles in England that the deposition of the Maharaja of Cashmere was indispensable for the welfare of Her Majesty's Empire. Under that impression Lord Lansdowne's Government deprived the Maharaja of Cashmere of his administrative powers. But we look upon our present Viceroy as a statesman of independent views. For various reasons the Indian public entertain for Lord Elgin feelings of deep respect. That is why this sudden act of indiscretion on the part of His Lordship has astonished us. It may very well be that the Maharaja of Bharatpur is guilty of a hundred offences, and that it will not be well for the Bharatpur State if the Maharaja is not deprived of his administrative powers. We do not at all suspect His Lordship's motives. We must, however, say that so important a step as this ought not to be taken without careful consideration. Before taking a step like this, it is necessary to make a most careful scrutiny into the merits and demerits of the prince in question, for without such a scrutiny it is impossible to prevent misgivings and misconceptions from arising in the public mind. If the Maharaja is really guilty, by all means let him be punished. But Government may be mistaken on that point, and it is therefore necessary for Government to take the public into its confidence in such cases. In her Proclamation of 1857, Her Majesty gave the sacred pledge that no tributary or feudatory prince of India would in future be deposed. The case of Mulhar Rao Gaekwar will still be in the recollection of the reader. At that time Lord Northbrook was Viceroy. Mulhar Rao was publicly charged with being incapable of governing his State, and it was declared that his State was suffering from his maladministration. A ripe statesman, Lord Northbrook did not violate in the least the solemn pledge that was given by the Queen. He appointed a Commission to enquire into Mulhar Rao's proceedings, and that Commission adjudged him guilty. Lord Northbrook allowed Mulhar Rao a year-and-a-half's time to mend himself. Mulhar Rao represented to the Government of India that the Resident, Colonel Phayre, was in the habit of interfering with his acts, and that unless the Colonel was removed it would be impossible for him to remove the defects of his administration. Lord Northbrook's Government felt the force of this representation, and determined to remove Colonel Phayre. Colonel Phayre, however, complained to the Government of India that the Maharaja had attempted to poison him. The charge was serious, and a regular trial was held by a Commission with the then Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, Sir Richard Couch, as President, and Dinkar Rao and three Hindu princes as members. The Maharaja was defended by a competent Counsel; but the Commission found him guilty, and there was no alternative but to depose him. But the country was no way injured by this deposition of Mulhar Rao. A kinsman of his, a worthy prince, was installed on his throne. The public could not therefore find anything to blame in the action of Government.

We ask Lord Elgin's Government, in all humility, how has the Maharaja of Bharatpur been found guilty? That the Maharaja may be guilty is a thing which is perfectly possible, and we fully believe that he is guilty. But why was no Commission appointed to try him, and why was he deposed in such a hurry? Bharatpur is not a frontier State, and no fault of its ruler can therefore endanger the safety of the Empire. We are therefore at a loss to understand why the Maharaja has been deposed. All popular misgivings in this connection can be removed by the publication of all the circumstances connected with this deposition, and we entreat Lord Elgin not to disregard this important point.

It is very doubtful whether Mulhar Rao was guilty of the offence with which he was charged. But he was adjudged guilty by a competent Commission. If Mulhar Rao had not been found guilty of so serious an offence by a competent Commission, Lord Northbrook would not have in all probability gone the length of deposing him. There can be no doubt that in a matter like this it is necessary to prevent any misgiving or misconception in the public mind. Lord Dufferin was an able and astute ruler, and he felt it necessary to justify the annexation of Burma, in the eyes of the Indian people, by saying that as Burma was outside the limits of India, the Queen's promise of respecting the rights of the native princes was not broken by its annexation. This justification satisfied the Indian people. We should also state here that if the Maharaja of Bharatpur is not guilty of a serious offence like Mulhar Rao, his deposition will not be approved of by the people. We therefore entreat Lord Elgin to publish the papers relating to the Bharatpur case, and what we know of Lord Elgin's character makes us confident that he will do this in deference to public opinion.

41. The *Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide* of the 28th March says that the statement made by the *Akhbari A'm* of Lahore that the Nawab of Bhawalpur in the Punjab interfered with the religion of the Hindus by prohibiting them

The Nawab of Bhawalpur in the *Holi* festival.

by beat of *tom-tom* from parading with music along the public streets during the *Holi* festival, is one inspired by selfish motives. The Nawab only prohibited the Hindus from using abusive language towards the Musalmans and throwing *abir* (the red powder) upon them while walking in procession along the streets. The Nawab issued this prohibition because he suspected that such conduct on the part of the Hindus might lead to a Hindu-Musalman quarrel.

DARUSSALTANAT
AND URDU GUIDE.
March 28th, 1895.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

42. The *Vikrampur* of the 28th March says that the passing of the Police Act Amendment Bill so incensed the writer against Sir Antony MacDonnell, who framed the Bill, that he was glad when he heard that Sir Antony had been appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the North-

Sir Antony MacDonnell and the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal.

Western Provinces, and was therefore not to come to Bengal. But that was only a momentary feeling. In reality, the writer has been sorry at the appointment, because it takes away from Bengal a ruler, who had all along served here, and whose sympathies are with its people, as was clearly proved when, in the midst of Sir Charles Elliott's rigorous rule, he officiated for him for six months and brought some consolation to the Bengalis by his upright administration. He was certainly not a common ruler who was able to reassure the minds of his subjects, when they were violently agitated by the Phillips—Radice affairs, and by the "no conviction, no promotion" circular, and by the circular requiring a rapid disposal of criminal cases. In connection with the cow-killing quarrels, Sir Charles Elliott called the Hindus "nefarious conspirators," but in the midst of those quarrels, Sir Antony MacDonnell kept his head, and made no one responsible for them. The people of Bengal were therefore hopefully looking forward to the day on which Sir Antony MacDonnell would have been appointed their ruler. But Lord Elgin has disappointed them.

VIKRAMPUR,
March 28th, 1895.

URIYA PAPERS.

43. The *Utkal Dipika* of the 23rd February, and the *Uriya and Navasamvad* of the 27th February, approve the principle of the Lepers Bill that has been introduced into the Bengal Legislative Council. The *Samvadvahika* of the 28th February gives a summary of the same in a tone of approval.

UTKALDIPKA,
Feb. 23rd, 1895.

44. The death of the old Maharani of Parlakemidi, an Uriya State in the Madras Presidency, is mourned by all the native papers of Orissa.

Death of a Uriya Maharani.

UTKALDIPKA.

45. The substitution of *Uriya* in the place of *Hindi* as the court language in the Courts of the district of Sambalpur in the Central Provinces, is still the subject of a regular discussion in all the native papers of Orissa. The

The question of the Court language in Sambalpur.

UTKALDIPKA

writers mean to carry on the discussion for several weeks more. Finding that the recognition of *Bengali*, *Hindi* and *Uriya* in the Lower Provinces of Bengal does not produce any serious administrative inconvenience, they are at a loss to understand the policy of the Central Provinces Administration, which means to compel the population of a Uriya district to accept a language which is not their own, against the traditions of the past and against the continuity of the liberal and benevolent policy of the British Government, that has practically secured to each district its own vernacular. They are of opinion that the best security for the stability of a Government is a correct appreciation of their rights and liabilities by the people, and that the only means to influence the people and reach the masses is through their own vernacular. They are sorry that such a well-known principle of the Government has been overlooked by the administration of the Central Provinces.

UTKALDIPKA,
Feb. 16th, 1895

46. The *Utkaldipika* of the 16th February is sorry to notice that there was no mention of India in the memorable Queen's speech, delivered at the opening of the present session of the British Parliament in England.

UTKALDIPKA.

47. The same paper draws the attention of Government to the speech of Sir A. W. Croft, K.C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, and Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, delivered at the annual Convocation of the University, and points out that some steps should be taken to neutralise the evil effects of poverty, which, in the Vice-Chancellor's opinion, stands in the way of the education of the young men of the country.

UTKALDIPKA,
Feb. 27th, 1895.

48. The *Utkaldipika* of the 27th February endorses the high encomium which the Government of Bengal has passed on Mahamahopadhyaya Mahes Chandra Nyayaratna, C.I.E., who has retired from the service of that Government.

UTKALDIPKA.

49. The same paper observes that the Honorable Judges of the Calcutta High Court, who heard the appeal of the Raja of Nattore against the decision of the Sessions Judge of Rajshahi, convicting him of an offence under the Indian Penal Code, should not have given expression to their moral conviction that the Raja was an abettor of the crime, in a written judgment in which it was authoritatively stated that there was no legal evidence connecting the Raja in any way with the alleged crime.

ASSAM PAPERS.

PARIDARSHAK,
Second fortnight
of Falgun.

50. The *Paridarshak* for the second fortnight of Falgun says that the Sylhet Municipality has not taken any steps to realize the tax on horses and conveyances from Mr. Gardiner, although that gentleman has refused to pay the same for the last six months. The municipality is still hesitating to take any legal proceedings against Mr. Gardiner, probably from fear of his white skin. In the Bill which has been made out by the municipality, giving an account of the dues from the defaulting rate-payer, only two horses have been assessed, though it is known that Mr. Gardiner has three.

SRIHATTAVASI,
First Fortnight of
Chaitra.

51. A correspondent of the *Srihattavasi* for the first fortnight of Chaitra complains of mistakes in the text-books that are read, and in the question papers that are set, at the Middle English and Middle Vernacular Examinations in Assam.

Nilmani Babu's History of India bristles with wrong dates, and is written in bad Bengali. P. Ghose's Arithmetic, which is included in the list of text-books, gives wrong answers to many problems. As the author of this book is now dead, and there is therefore no chance of its being revised and corrected, it should be excluded from the list of text-books.

In the afternoon paper on Bengali literature the word "বান্ধিকা" was spelt as "বাইকা," probably through the printer's mistake.

In the first question in the paper on History, there occurs the word "সৌর্যবংশ" which is probably a misprint for "মৌর্যবংশ". But some candidates have taken

the word for “সূর্য বংশ,” others for “শূর্য বংশ” and others again for “সৌর্য বংশ” and they have framed their answers accordingly.

In the paper on Geography, Jamaica, Nantes, and other geographical names are spelt in Bengali in a different way from that in which they are spelt in Sasi Babu's *Bhugol*, which is the text-book on the subject. This is calculated to mislead the candidates.

In conclusion, the correspondent requests the Examiners to have regard to these probable causes of confusion in examining the papers. The Director of Public Instruction, Assam, is also requested to have these question papers revised in future, and to appoint only those Bengali books as text-books which will be approved by a competent Bengali scholar. The Deputy Inspector of Schools, Navakisor Babu, will make a very good judge of Bengali text-books.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 6th April 1895.

